

39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 52, 55, 57, 59 and 61. The independent claims have been amended.

In the Official Action dated July 9, 1999, Claim 57 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended Claim 57 to improve its form. Applicant submits that this claim, as amended, is not indefinite.

Claims 1-55 and 57-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,368 (Shibaki, et al.). Claim 56 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibaki, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,278 (Kurihara, et al.). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

With respect to independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a memory medium for being coupled to a memory medium reading device, the memory medium storing a plurality of image data and image-reproduction instruction data specifying whether or not the image data is to be output for being reproduced in response to the memory medium reading device reading the image-reproduction instruction data.

The remaining independent claims similarly relate to an apparatus, method, or memory medium for storing image data for

a plurality of images and image-reproduction instruction data, or an image output program, indicating whether or not certain of the image data is to be output for being reproduced.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Shibaki, et al. patent relates to an image processing apparatus using retrieval sheets capable of recording additional retrieval information. However, Applicant submits that the Shibaki, et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of the present invention. In particular, this reference fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus, method, or memory medium for storing image data for a plurality of images and image-reproduction instruction data, or image output program, indicating whether or not certain of the image data is to be output for being reproduced.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

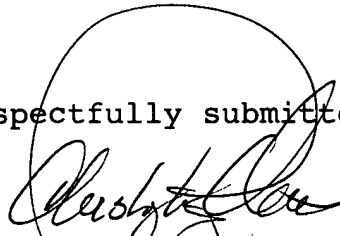
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 21, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 52, 55, 57, 59 and 61 are allowable over the cited art. The

remaining claims respectively depend from these independent claims and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. Applicant submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience, earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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